

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims is set forth below. Claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 5-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A process apparatus, comprising:
a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and
a judgment unit calculating an index indicating an amount of the information stored about the discussion and said judgment unit judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on-by comparing the index with a specific value.
2. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising
a notification unit notifying participants of the electronic conference of a holding of the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.
3. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising
a reservation unit making reservations for facilities needed to hold the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference,
said notification unit notifies expected participants of information about reserved facilities.
4. (original) The process apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said reservation unit makes reservations for transportation needed for the expected participants to participate at the face-to-face conference; and
said notification unit notifies the expected participants of information about reserved transportation.
5. (currently amended) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit uses a number of speakers in the discussion as the index, and if the number of speakers exceeds a~~the~~ specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

6. (currently amended) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit uses a number of utterances in the discussion as the index, and if the number of utterances exceeds ~~a~~the specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

7. (currently amended) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage unit stores information about the discussion in a tree structure; and said judgment unit uses a depth of the tree structure as the index, and if the depth of the tree structure exceeds ~~a~~the specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

8. (currently amended) The process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said judgment unit uses a data amount of the information stored about the discussion as the index, and if the data amount exceeds ~~a~~the specific value, said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference.

9. (currently amended) A process apparatus, comprising:
a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and
a judgment unit calculating an index indicating a possibility of the discussion diverging and said judgment unit judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on the index based on by comparing the index with a specific value.

10. (currently amended) A process apparatus for executing a process of an asynchronous electronic conference among a plurality of areas in a distributed environment, comprising:

a communications unit transmitting information about a discussion at the electronic conference between areas;

a storage unit storing the information about the discussion; and

a judgment unit judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference ~~based on by~~
comparing an indication of an amount of the stored information about the discussion with a specific value.

11. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program enabling a computer to execute a process, said process comprising;

calculating an index indicating an amount of stored information about a discussion at an electronic conference; and

judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference by comparing based on the index with a specific value.

12. (currently amended) A process method comprising;

recording information about a discussion at an electronic conference;

calculating an index indicating an amount of the information about the discussion; and

judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on by comparing the index with a specific value.

13. (currently amended) A process apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference;
and

judgment means for calculating an index indicating an amount of the information stored about the discussion and for judging whether to hold a face-to-face conference based on by comparing the index with a specific value.